



but the dimensional relationships among the components of the Hayakawa device are “approximately” the same or “slightly” different as those claimed.

Simply put, the Examiner misunderstands the claimed features. For instance, the Examiner interprets the length “L” to be the entire length of the oxygen sensing element, which it is not. In fact, the length “L” defines the length (i.e., the longitudinal dimension) of the “gas receiving surface region.” In oxygen sensors, like the Hayakawa device, the entire length of the oxygen sensing element is approximately two times greater than the length of the gas receiving surface region. In particular, the length of the sensing electrode region of Hayakawa et al. is equal to the entire length (2.07L) of the oxygen sensing element. On the other hand, the length of the sensing electrode region of the claimed invention is equal to or less than 80% of the length ($\leq 0.8L$) of the gas receiving surface region. Thus, the sensing electrode region of the Hayakawa device is neither “approximately” the same nor “slightly” different than the claimed invention.


Therefore, the claimed invention recognizes, and overcomes, the problems inherent with the insufficiently activated region (i.e., the surface region exceeding 0.8L). Unlike the claimed invention, the sensor output of the Hayakawa-like sensor will be adversely influenced by the signal obtained from the surface region exceeding 0.8L to 2.07L. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 as well as dependent claims 2-5 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicants thus respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as originally presented.

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Applicants' counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate the prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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